

TSNRP ★ news

From the Director

SPRING/SUMMER 2011



Col Marla De Jong

The TriService Nursing Research Program (TSNRP) is the only program that funds and supports rigorous scientific research in the field of military nursing. The goal is to advance military nursing science and optimize the health of military members and their families. Military nurses can achieve this goal if they deliberately plan and

execute salient programs of research that align with a research priority or priorities of TSNRP.

TSNRP-sponsored research interest groups (RIGs) is one means by which a group of military nurses with mutual interests can (1) engage in scholarly dialogue; (2) develop and mature programs of research that narrow or close validated research gaps; and (3) inform clinical practice, delivery of health care, education, management, health policy, and/or military doctrine. At present, the extant groups include the Women's Health RIG (see page 3 of the Fall/Winter 2010 issue of *TSNRP News*), the En Route Care RIG (see page 8 of this issue), and the Behavioral Health RIG. I encourage military nurses with an interest in women's health, en route care, and behavioral health to consider actively participating in the RIGs.

Each RIG consists of a leader; steering committee; military nurse scientists; and other nurses, graduate and doctoral students, military and/or civilian consultants

with expertise in the research topic or methodology, and clinician and consumer stakeholders. Considering the research priorities of TSNRP, the skill sets and career responsibilities of those individuals involved, and the availability of resources, the members of each RIG function as a community of scholars who collaborate to define the RIG's purpose and goals, develop a research agenda, identify research gaps and deliverables, develop an evidence base for the topic, conduct research, disseminate findings, and foster the translation of evidence into practice. Interdisciplinary inquiry, along with multisite and cross-Service research initiatives, is encouraged as appropriate.

TSNRP highly values RIGs because they exemplify active programs of research that support TSNRP's strategic goals and mission. In addition, RIGs open doors of opportunity for both TSNRP and nurse scientists to (1) contribute to U.S. Department of Defense, international, and national dialogue about research topics; (2) propel vital research agendas; (3) build partnerships within the military health care system; (4) serve on committees or commissions within the Military Health System; and (5) inform practice and policy decisions. Finally, the RIG activities and ensuing deliverables are strategies by which TSNRP can enhance its contributions to—and visibility and credibility within—the Military Health System.

Col Marla De Jong, USAF, NC, PhD



TSNRP News is published twice each year by the TriService Nursing Research Program. It is available online at www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp/News/news.php.

In This Issue:

Special Topics	2
Awards and Honors	5
Research Spotlight	8
Educational Programs	10

Military Medical Transformations in the National Capital Region

COL (ret) Petra Goodman, AN, USA, PhD

The military medical system in the National Capital Region (NCR) is transforming due to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) and the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) will merge in the fall of 2011 to form a joint command as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). WRNMMC and the community hospital at Fort Belvoir will report to the Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical (JTF CapMed). The facilities will be staffed as joint rather than single-Service billets and will have a combination of military medical professionals from the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

This unprecedented and transformational decision ushers in a new model for both health care delivery and nursing science in the NCR. While military

nurse scientists have traditionally developed and implemented research projects with a tri-Service team of scientists, nursing research departments have never been staffed with a representative mix of nurse researchers from two or more Services.

Together, the WRAMC and the NNMC Nursing Science Departments have established a permanent manning document, the "Joint Table of Distribution and Allowances," to develop the best combination of personnel and skill sets to man the Nursing Science Department at the WRNMMC and a satellite unit at the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. Collaborative discussions to initiate integration of policies will be forthcoming.

Given the magnitude of investment and considering the substantial military health care renovation in the

NCR, the relationships between environmental evidence-based design (EBD) and patient and staff outcomes are being examined. Army, Navy, and Air Force nurse scientists (COL Petra Goodman, CDR Michelle Kane, and Col Peggy McNeill, respectively) collaborated with scientists, leaders, engineers, and academicians from military treatment facilities in the NCR, the U.S. Department of Defense, and other scientific research organizations to initiate numerous research protocols to evaluate the effects of EBD on various outcomes, such as falls, work-related injuries, patient and staff satisfaction, and hospital-acquired infections. These series of studies are under way and will provide critical baseline information that will inform not only future research in EBD outcomes, but also how important considerations of the physical environment relate to patient care. ★

Military Nurse Scientists Gather in Wake of SAMHS

The San Antonio, Texas, nurse scientist community gathered for its first social on 22 January 2011. Attendees included Army and Air Force doctoral-prepared nurses, doctoral students, and others in the local area representing the Institute of Surgical Research, Brooke Army Medical Center, U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Brooks City-Base, and University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

The group will meet quarterly to network and establish collaborative working relationships that will benefit them as the Army and Air Force partner in fall 2011, per the



Front row: COL Denise Hopkins-Chadwick, MAJ Laureen Otto, LTC Elizabeth Mann, and SMSgt Robert Corrigan. Back Row: LTC Ann Nayback-Beebe, LTC Laura Feider, Lt Col Candy Wilson, Col Karen Weis, LTC Michael Loughren, and Ngozi Mbue.

Base Realignment and Closure process, to establish the San Antonio Military Health System (SAMHS). This new group will provide oversight

for clinical, educational, and business operations for all military treatment facilities in the San Antonio region. ★



Partnership Between USU Grants Office and TSNRP

Pamela Moses, RN, MHA

The Grants Management Office, known as the GRT, at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) is essential to the activities of TSNRP. The GRT serves as the primary advisor to USU's research community, grant recipients, and sponsoring agencies as well as oversees pre-award and post-award processes for grants and cooperative agreements. TSNRP-awarded funds are just a small portion of the grants assistance for which the GRT provides oversight. During a typical year, TSNRP awards more than \$4.5 million in grant funds. During fiscal year 2010, the GRT awarded more than \$74 million in grant agreements. Excluding TSNRP awards, the GRT has 131 active grants, with a total award amount of \$499 million.

The GRT provides a full range of critical grant and agreement management services to support USU's mission, such as:

- Identifying which assistance mechanism—grant versus contract—is most appropriate to complete a public purpose project.
- Advising principal investigators, program offices, and funding sponsors in order to achieve a well-managed and timely award process and efficient post-award administration.
- Monitoring, reviewing, and approving pre-award and post-award documents and activities for grant agreements, including recipient qualifications, annual appropriations, sponsored funding, budget projections, invoice certification, scope-of-work modifications, site visits, financial reports, progress reports, and audits.



The Grants Management Office at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Front row: Yongming Qiu and Malika Graham. Back row: Gilberto Castillo, Jody Milam, and Kenneth Bell.

- Providing advice and guidance to USU medical students for training agreements and to USU researchers, faculty, and staff for all other support and affiliation agreements.

The collaboration between the GRT and TSNRP is well-established and efficient. Kenneth Bell, director, and Jody Milam, grants and agreements assistant, are the two individuals who primarily interface with the grants managers at TSNRP. Mr. Bell has been a member of the USU community since 1995 and has directed the GRT since 2000. Ms. Milam joined the GRT staff during 2004. Their combined and extensive knowledge and responsive approach to customer service are valuable resources.

Specifically for TSNRP, the GRT:

- Processes grant agreements and funding documents to initiate a new grant award.

- Processes grant agreement and funding modifications.
- Recommends new and more streamlined processes.

The GRT usually signs and processes grant agreements within a few days of receiving them. The office's attention to detail and its focus on accuracy are evident, even during high stress periods, such as at the end of the fiscal year. During Mr. Bell's or Ms. Milam's absence, another staff member manages any issues that arise to prevent lapses in service. This smooth and seamless operation benefits TSNRP-funded principal investigators, their grantee organizations, research teams, and ultimately enables nurse scientists to produce new research. TSNRP is extremely grateful for its partnership with the GRT staff because together they provide timely and efficient service to military nurse scientists. ★

TSNRP Bids a Fond Farewell to Maria Burcroff

Before her recent retirement, Maria Burcroff faithfully served as program manager of the TSNRP Resource Center for nearly 10 years. Under her dedicated leadership, TSNRP educated hundreds of military nurses about research, grantsmanship, grants management, writing for publication, research methods, statistical analysis, and more. Ms. Burcroff worked to ensure that continuing education credits were offered at nearly all education events, a significant

undertaking that is a great benefit to military nurse scientists.

Ms. Burcroff also coordinated the Karen A. Rieder Research/Federal Nursing Poster Session at the annual meetings of AMSUS, served on the planning committees for numerous nursing conferences (e.g., those of the Pacific Institute of Nursing and the Western Institute of Nursing), connected military nurse scientists with mentors, disseminated research-related resources (e.g., SPSS and EndNote

software) to nurse scientists, and helped launch research interest groups.

Given her warm, facilitatory approach and selfless service, Ms. Burcroff is beloved by nurse scientists throughout the world. Indisputably, she has made tremendous contributions to mature and promote the mission of TSNRP, and she will be greatly missed. TSNRP wishes both her and her husband, Richard, good health, days full of joy, safe travels, and time to indulge in enjoyable activities! ★

Kudos

Lt Col Candy Wilson, USAF, NC, was the recipient of the 2010 Air Education and Training Command Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Research Award. This award was given as recognition for her completing two TSNRP-funded research studies, gathering data for seven Institute of Surgical Research protocols, and supporting several other researchers who had a desire to conduct research while deployed to Afghanistan. Lt Col Wilson deployed as Senior Scientist for the Joint Combat Casualty Research Team from 2009–2010.



LTC Nancy Steele, AN, USA, was honored by a personal invitation from COL Wendy Spencer, Matron-in-Chief and Director of the United Kingdom's Army Nursing Services, to present at the Annual Military Nurse Conference held at the historical University of Glamorgan in



COL Wendy Spencer, Matron-in-Chief and Director of the United Kingdom Army Nursing Services; LTC Nancy Steele, Chief, Center for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry, Europe Regional Medical Command; COL (ret) Bridget McEvelly, Colonel Commandant Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

Wales. LTC Steele's presentation, entitled "The Practice Environment & Burnout among Nursing Personnel at a Deployed Combat Support Hospital," was well-received and provided an impetus for an international collaborative project between UK nurses and US research nurses at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.



Congratulations to **CAPT Jacqueline Rychnovsky, NC, USN**, for her selection as Executive Officer of the Naval Hospital Yokosuka in Japan.



Congratulations to **CAPT Cynthia J. Gantt, NC, USN**, for her selection as Executive Officer of the Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms in California. ★



Patrick DeLeon Receives Honorary Fellowship

Congratulations to Patrick H. DeLeon, PhD, JD, AAPP, MPH, who was recognized as an Honorary Fellow by the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) during its 37th Annual Meeting and Conference on 13 November 2010. By awarding Honorary Fellowships, AAN recognizes individuals who are not eligible for regular fellowships but who have made outstanding contributions to health care and/or nursing.

Dr. DeLeon is Chief of Staff for U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii (D-HI) and is one of the foremost advocates of and a true champion for nursing. His passion for the nursing profession and what it can do to better society has fueled his advocacy interests, activities, and training curricula. Individuals, society, and the nursing field have benefitted greatly from his significant contributions. He was instrumental in establishing the National Institute of Nursing Research, TSNRP, and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Graduate School of Nursing.

He is professionally affiliated with the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University; the George Mason University College of Nursing and Health Science; the University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing; the University of Hawaii School of Nursing at Manoa and Hilo; the University of Michigan School of Nursing; and the USU Graduate School of Nursing.

As a long-term staff member of Senator Inouye, Dr. DeLeon is extremely well-versed in the art of politics and the advocacy process. He is tireless in his efforts to help others “learn the ropes” on Capitol



American Academy of Nursing President Catherine L. Gilliss presents Dr. Patrick DeLeon with an Honorary Fellowship. (Photograph was taken by Sonny Odom.)

Hill through formal mechanisms, such as the Military Nurse Detail Program, and through more informal advising and guidance. Many nurses who had been hesitant of the prospects of advocating in Washington, D.C., have been empowered by the patient, yet persistent, mentoring that Dr. DeLeon has provided.

He has received many awards and recognitions from numerous professional nursing organizations, including, but not limited to, AAN, the Air Force Nurse Corps and the Army Nurse Corps, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the National Alaskan Native American Indian Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the National Nursing Centers Consortium, and the Pacific Institute of Nursing. He was inducted as an Honorary

Dr. DeLeon's passion for the nursing profession and what it can do to better society has fueled his advocacy interests, activities, and training curricula.

Member into Sigma Theta Tau International, Inc., in 1993, and in 1987, the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing recognized him as an Honorary Nurse.

Dr. DeLeon holds a JD from the Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University of America, a PhD in clinical psychology from Purdue University, and an MPH from the University of Hawaii. ★

Recent Retirements

COL Petra Goodman (Army)
CDR V. Andrea Parodi (Navy)

Karen A. Rieder Research/Federal Nursing Poster Session

The 22nd Annual Karen A. Rieder Research/Federal Nursing Poster Session took place on 2 November 2010 in conjunction with the 116th Annual Meeting of AMSUS, the Society of the Federal Health Agencies, in Phoenix, Arizona. Military and federal nurses presented 87 posters about a wide variety of topics. TSNRP and the Federal Nursing Service sponsored the event.

The Navy Nurse Corps initiated the Karen A. Rieder poster session in honor of its first Navy nurse researcher, CAPT Karen A. Rieder, and sponsored the session for 17 years. During 2006, TSNRP assumed responsibility for the poster session.

A group of expert nurse scientists score each abstract for scientific merit, significance to nursing, and adherence to the guidelines. During the 2010 poster session, Maj Gen Kimberly Siniscalchi, USAF, NC, Assistant Air Force Surgeon General, Medical Force Development, and Assistant Air Force Surgeon General, Nursing Services, and Col Marla De Jong, USAF, NC, PhD, TSNRP's Executive Director, presented the winners with a certificate and a TSNRP coin. This year's winners are listed below.

Karen A. Rieder Research Posters

First Place

“Oral Care Compliance in the Reduction of VAP in the Burn ICU Patient”

CPT Amy B. Bray, AN, USA
CPT Kylee Foy, AN, USA



Military nurse scientists present research and evidence-based practice posters at the Annual Meeting of AMSUS held in November.

Second Place

“The Use of Simulation in Improving the Readiness Skills of Air Force Squadron Medical Technicians in the Care of Patients with Chest Tube Drainage System”

Capt Cleddy Arellano, USAFR, NC, DNP
Capt Alfie Jay Ignacio, USAFR, NC

Third Place

“Preflight/Enroute Pain Management of Trauma Victims Transported by USAF AE from Operation Enduring Freedom”

Lt Col Charissa Gentry, ANG, NC
Col Elizabeth Bridges, USAFR, NC, PhD

Federal Nursing Posters

First Place

“The Use of Gap Analysis in Planning Cultural Change

Towards Safe Patient Handling in a Military Healthcare Facility”

MAJ Ann C. Sims, AN, USA
Kelly A. Roy
Judy E. Zieger

Second Place (Tie)

“Evidence-Based Practice Process: Prevention and Management of Pressure Ulcers”

CPT Maxwell Hernandez, AN, USA

“Using Improvement Science to Guide Development and Implementation of the 2010 Army Nursing Research & Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Priority List & Policy”

Lori A. Loan, PhD, RNC

Third Place

“Clinician Satisfaction with Computer Decision Support in the Burn Intensive Care Unit”

CPT David A. Allen, AN, USA
LTC Elizabeth Mann, AN, USA ★



25th Annual Conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society

The 25th Annual Conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) was held on 16–19 February 2011 in Jacksonville, Florida. The theme of the conference was “Celebrating 25 Years of Nursing Research.”

LTC Ann Nayback-Beebe, AN, USA, was invited to present two posters. The first poster, titled “Social support, conflict, and stressful life events: Their unique contributions to mental health symptom severity for female veterans,” summarized the findings of her TSNRP-funded dissertation research. LTC Nayback-Beebe demonstrated that for enlisted female Service members, the presence of social conflict within their social networks—not the absence of social support—contributed to the severity of anxiety and post-traumatic stress symptoms (PTSS) 6 to 12 months after returning from deployment. A paper that she has written detailing her research has been accepted for publication in *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*.

The second poster, titled “Psychometric properties of the Interpersonal Relationship Inventory-Short Form (IPRI-SF) for female veterans,” described how the IPRI-SF performed differently for female Service members than for civilians. Typically, the IPRI-SF measures two concepts within interpersonal relationships: social support and social conflict. When data from female veterans were analyzed, a third component, cultural context, emerged and demonstrated that military culture affects how female Service members perceive conflict within their social networks. A paper on these findings has been accepted for publication by *Research in Nursing & Health*.



LTC Kristal Melvin and LTC Ann Nayback-Beebe presented posters of their TSNRP-supported dissertation research at the Southern Nursing Research Society's 25th Annual Conference.

LTC Kristal Melvin, AN, USA, was invited to present a poster titled “Couple functioning and posttraumatic stress in Army combat veterans and spouses” that represents a portion of her TSNRP-supported dissertation research. A total of 66 Army couples completed surveys about combat and other trauma exposure, PTSS, resilience, and couple functioning. More than 50% of the couples had at least one member with clinically high levels of PTSS. Across all couples, higher levels of PTSS were associated with lower couple functioning ($p < .001$) when analyzed using multivariate regression, controlling for couple interdependence. The study also involved in-depth interviews with 14 couples selected from the larger sample and further explores the role of resilience and the internal and external resources that Army couples find most helpful. These analyses are ongoing.

COL (ret) Patricia Patrician, AN, USA, was invited to speak on the topic “From microsystem to macrosystem: Measuring the effects of nurse staffing on quality indicators.” Quality of care is an important component of the

measures of health care system performance, and an increasing number of measures are tied to reimbursement. In this study, COL (ret) Patrician examined what influences quality of care in different settings as well as how patients, providers, and health care systems measure and rate quality of care.

Findings revealed significant associations between adverse patient and staff events (patient falls, falls with injury, and medication administration errors) and lower registered nurse skill mix, lower percentages of civilians on the shift, and lower nursing care hours. Staffing effects were more pronounced on medical surgical units, possibly due to increased variability in staffing. Consistent, adequate staffing on every shift is critical to preventing the occurrence of adverse events and maintaining quality of care.

Recently published papers detailing COL (ret) Patrician's program of research are published in the *Journal of Nursing Administration*, *Nursing Administration Quarterly*, and the *American Journal of Infection Control*. ★

En Route Care Research Interest Group

Members of TSNRP's En Route Care (ERC) Research Interest Group (RIG) are beginning the team's work of advancing ERC with evidence-based practices and research, as well as facilitating related ERC research consultations. The RIG has created three subgroups: medical evacuation, patient safety, and pain management.

The Medical Evacuation subgroup, led by Dr. Lori Loan, has been researching the possibility of pre-hospital ketamine administration protocols while still in theater to decrease instances of phantom limb pain in amputees. The group has also discussed the need for further research on the most appropriate personnel expertise needed at the point of injury.

The ERC Patient Safety subgroup, led by Lt Col (sel) Susan Dukes, USAF, NC, has focused on aeromedical evacuation (AE). Proposals have been developed to enhance communication during patient hand-offs and to look at discrepancies surrounding medications and equipment in the AE environment.



Although the photo does not include all group members, these nurse scientists first met at AMSUS to lay the foundation for future work. Left to right: Capt Rowena Faner, Dr. Lori Loan, Col Elizabeth Bridges, Lt Col (ret) Karen Evers, Maj Jennifer Hatzfeld, Lt Col (sel) Susan Dukes.

The ERC Pain Management subgroup, led by Col Elizabeth Bridges, USAF, NC, has found that there are only three studies to date on ERC pain management, but there is now a published clinical practice guideline on pain management with standardized order sets. The group has discussed the need to continue conversation on the nursing-related and multidisciplinary research questions to be asked in this area. During a recent phone conference, RIG members from Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) expressed interest in solving patient comfort concerns during transport from Andrews Air

Force Base to WRAMC in semi-sized ambulance vehicles on the uneven surfaces of the Capital Beltway.

The group congratulates RIG member and co-author MAJ Richard Morton, AN, USA, for his recent paper published in December's *Critical Care Nurse* on the Army's development of tactical trauma transport teams (*Critical Care Nurse*, 2010; 30(6), 57–66). Anyone interested in joining the ERC RIG is welcome and encouraged to contact Col Elizabeth Bridges at ebridges@u.washington.edu or Lt Col (sel) Susan Dukes at susan.dukes@wpafb.af.mil. ★

Calendar

May 2011

National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition
2 – 5 May, Chicago, Illinois

Research Development Course
25 – 27 May, San Diego, California

June 2011

Application for the Graduate Research Award, Graduate Evidence-Based Practice Award, and Fast Track Award
due at TSNRP 1 June

Evidence-Based Practice Grant Camp
13 – 17 June, San Antonio, Texas

July 2011

Summer Institute on Evidence-Based Practice
30 June – 2 July, San Antonio, Texas

Deadline for abstract submission for the Karen A. Rider Federal Nursing Poster Session at AMSUS
due at AMSUS 30 July

August 2011

Letter of Intent for FY 2012 Funding Cycle A
due at TSNRP 2 August

Post-Award Grant Management Workshop
date TBD, location TBD

October 2011

Grant applications for FY 2012 Funding Cycle A
due at TSNRP 4 October

Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) Special Topic Conference “Comparative Effectiveness and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research”
12 October, Washington, DC

November 2011

117th Annual Meeting of AMSUS (The Society of the Federal Health Agencies)
6 – 9 November, San Antonio, Texas



Research in Theater: Past, Present, and Future

LT Allison L. Ferro, AN, USA, and MAJ Felecia M. Rivers, AN, USA, PhD

The Joint Combat Casualty Research Team (JC2RT) has been affectionately nicknamed the “Rapid Reaction Research Force” because of the nature of the research in theater at present. The team strives to move lessons learned from combat casualty care into practice as rapidly as possible, hence the nickname.

The DC2RT (Deployed Combat Casualty Research Team) began in Iraq in 2006 with the Army. The research team moved to Afghanistan in 2009 and, with the addition of Air Force and Navy members, was renamed the JC2RT. During Team 9’s tenure, two new research sites were opened, extending the research capability to a total of four locations. JC2RT personnel are now located at Bagram Airfield, Kandahar Airfield, Camp Dwyer, and Camp Leatherneck. The new sites were established to promote research studies and performance improvement projects in key areas far forward within the joint area of operations. In the combat field environment, it is important to capture information at multiple sites because of the variance in operational tempo and mechanisms of injury, which often generate diverse treatment requirements.

Similar to past teams, research challenges in theater remain. It is difficult to put research into practice in a timely manner to improve the care of the country’s wounded warriors. Thus, this team’s focus was to facilitate quality research, which was done effectively through performance improvement (PI) projects. Team 9 has found PI projects to be a helpful and expedient way to gather

timely information that lays a foundation for future research. In its short 5-month tenure, 28 PI projects have been approved under Team 9 and are ongoing throughout theater. Current performance improvement activities pertain to behavioral health, nursing care, resiliency, pediatrics, musculoskeletal care, and wound management, to name a few.

For example, the Concussive Restoration Care Center (CRCC) at Camp Leatherneck, in Afghanistan, has started developing its program of research since opening in August 2010. CRCC needed a way to document the advancement of patient care because of its unique clinic, and the staff did this solely based on a foundation of PI projects. This may ultimately lead to the opening of similar facilities because of CRCC accomplishments and the quick way it was able to demonstrate successes.

Moving forward, Team 9 anticipates the product of its ground work will greatly impact evidence-based practice. As noted, JC2RT is constantly



LT Allison L. Ferro and MAJ Felecia M. Rivers

evolving to meet the needs of the nation’s war fighters and to optimize battlefield health through high-quality combat casualty research. JC2RT has definitely earned the title of “combat researchers!” ★

Newly Funded Studies

Congratulations to three new grant recipients! TSNRP recently awarded research grants to the following military nurse scientists:

LTC Nancy Steele, AN, USA, “A Female Urinary Diversion Device for Military Women in the Deployed Environment”

LTC Lori Trego, AN, USA, “Using RE-AIM to Implement a Women’s Deployed Health Promotion Program”

MAJ Meryia Throop, AN, USA, “Getting to the Point: Promoting the HPV Vaccine in a Primary Care Clinic”

Notes from the Air Force Nursing Research and Acquisition Fellow

Capt Rowena Faner, USAF, NC

During June 2009, I sensed all my career aspirations sliding into place when I learned that the Air Force Nurse Corps was offering a Nursing Research and Acquisition Fellowship. The opportunity fit perfectly into my Air Force and nursing career goals, and even now, more than half way through the program, I remain excited about nursing research and my future in the Air Force. Admittedly, I thought I knew what this program would be about, but it has turned out to be so much more than I had ever imagined.

The words “research” and “acquisition” now have new meaning for me. With respect to research, I have learned the necessary steps that researchers must take to move a proposal through the research process. The steps range from the “call for proposal” preparation through the dissemination of the study results. I have observed and become oriented to the “behind the scenes” activity for moving the Air Force Surgeon General’s research priorities forward. I have witnessed collaborative research efforts by the Air Force and Army physicians through the Enroute Care Research Center within the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, located at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Through the fellowship, I received the opportunity to act as a government liaison for the U.S. Department of Defense’s (DoD’s) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program. This opportunity afforded me a DoD-level prospective for the



Capt Rowena Faner, Capt Jennifer Soper, and Ms. Mary Jones, work on a nursing research project.

determination of research funding. I observed the researchers’ grueling work—from writing research protocols, applying for grants with a myriad of rules and regulations, creating various databases, and conducting experiments in the animal laboratory, to the demanding job of obtaining participants for human research protocols. I also had the first-hand experience of collaborating with Army nurses in writing a research protocol and the anxiety associated with waiting for approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB). I reviewed research protocols as a member of the IRB. Prior to receiving the fellowship, I had focused my review on subject protection. Now, I understand and appreciate the overall IRB process. Acquisition, on the other hand, is a totally new concept for me, and I am still learning the different principles. Learning the principles starts with understanding the Defense

Acquisition Management Framework, which consists of concept refinement, technology development, system development and demonstration, production and deployment, and finally operations and support. Basically, acquisition is all about monitoring the research project’s schedule, cost, and performance. The Defense Acquisition University provides online courses as well as training, and I completed all core courses for Program Management Level I certification. I am confident that I can apply the acquisition and research concepts that I am learning in my next assignment to the 711th Human Performance Wing at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. As the first Nursing Research and Acquisition Fellow, I recognize that I have laid the groundwork for the next generation of Air Force nursing research fellows. I am extremely thankful for this unique opportunity. ★



Exciting Evidence-Based Practice Efforts at NMCS D

CAPT Angelica L. C. Almonte, NC, USN, PhD

On 6–8 October 2010, Marita Titler, PhD, RN, FAAN, an internationally recognized expert in evidence-based practice (EBP), held her Clinical Inquiry Institute at the Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) in San Diego, California. Senior Nurse Executive CAPT Kriste Grau, NC, USN, hand-selected 20 nurses to attend the 3-day workshop, which provided the opportunity to learn advanced skills in EBP, the role of EBP facilitation, and strategies to

develop the organizational infrastructure necessary to support EBP. The workshop was sponsored by a grant from TSNRP to CAPT Linnea Axman, NC, USN, for her EBP project titled “An Evidence-Based Protocol: Back to Basics Bundle of (AM/PM) Nursing Care.” The goal of the workshop was to invigorate and support the sustainment of EBP initiatives.

Dr. Titler’s research is focused on clinically based interventions that are translatable to nursing practice.

Her research emphasis spans more than 15 years and has resulted in an EBP model titled “The Iowa Model of Evidence-Based Practice to Promote Quality Care” that is widely used throughout the world. Dr. Titler was thrilled to work with NMCS D nurse leaders, visit the NMCS D facility, and tour the Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care facility with Director CAPT (ret) Jennifer Town, NC, USN. ★

Published Articles by TSNRP Nurse Scientists

2010

Gegel, B., Burgert, J., **Cooley, B., MacGregor, J., Myers, J., Calder, S., Luellen, R., Loughren, M., & Johnson, D.** (2010). The effects of BleedArrest, Celox, and TraumaDex on hemorrhage control in a porcine model. *J Surg Res* 164(1), e125–e129.

Holbrook, T. L., Galarneau, M. R., **Dye, J. L.**, Quinn, K., & Dougherty, A. L. (2010). Morphine use after combat injury in Iraq and post-traumatic stress disorder. *N Engl J Med* 362(2), 110–117.

Hudson, T. L. & **Morton, R.** (2010). Critical care transport in a combat environment: Building tactical trauma transport teams before and during deployment. *Crit Care Nurse* 30(6), 57–66.

Johnson, D., Flagg, A., & Dremsa, T. L. (2010). Effects of using human patient simulator versus a CD-ROM on learning the management of patients exposed to chemical agents. *US Army Med Dep J* Oct–Dec, 9–16.

Mach, W. J., Thimmesch, A. R., Slusser, J. G., Clancy, R. L., & **Pierce, J. D.** (2010). The effects of increased inspired oxygen with and without dopamine on lung and diaphragm hydrogen peroxide and apoptosis following hemorrhagic shock. *J Pre-Clin Clin Res* 4(1), 5–10.

Wu, J. R., Moser, D. K., Rayens, M. K., **De Jong, M. J.**, Chung, M. L., Riegel, B., & Lennie, T. A. (2010). Rurality and event-free survival in patients with heart failure. *Heart Lung* 39(6), 512–520.

2011

De Jong, M. J., Schmelz, J., Evers, K., Bradshaw, P., McKnight, K., **Bridges, E.** (2011). Accuracy and precision of buccal pulse oximetry. *Heart Lung* 40(1), 31–40.

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Evaluating a Professional Practice Model in Military Ambulatory Care Clinics

Congratulations to MAJ Leilani A. Siaki, AN, USA, PhD, who is the first nurse in the state of Hawaii to receive a grant to conduct an evidence-based practice (EBP) project! During September 2010, TSNRP awarded an Implementation of Innovation EBP grant award to MAJ Siaki, who is deputy chief of the Nursing Research Service at the Pacific Regional Medical Command (PRMC) in Honolulu.

The purpose of the project is to examine the effects of implementing an evidence-based professional practice model (PPM) on nurse satisfaction and indicators of quality care, such as access, continuity of care, and patient satisfaction, in a military ambulatory setting. The relationship between nurse satisfaction and work environment, and health care quality and patient outcomes, is well documented in the literature. According to the Institute of Medicine (IOM), optimal health care addresses both safety and effectiveness, and is patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable. Facilitators of optimal care

include effective interprovider communication, EBP, and evidence-based decision-making models.

During 2006–2009, nursing leaders at PRMC implemented an evidence-based PPM that was congruent with the American Nurses Association’s professional nursing values and contained features later recommended in a 2010 IOM report titled *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. Targeted to the inpatient setting, the process was guided by the Iowa Model of EBP. Faculty members from the Hawaii State Center for Nursing provided expert consultation. Implementation of the PPM improved staff and patient satisfaction as well as nurse-sensitive outcomes, such as medication error rates.

Given this success, the PRMC commander approved efforts to implement the PPM in outpatient settings. MAJ Siaki is conducting her project in the internal medicine and family practice clinics, and she acknowledges tremendous support from the

Hawaii State Center for Nursing EBP faculty and staff members of the two clinics. Work is under way on the project, which MAJ Siaki plans to complete in August 2012.

Delivering nursing care using a PPM as a framework supports the Army Nurse Corps system of care, IOM recommendations, and U.S. Army Medical Command Community Based Medical Homes. MAJ Siaki’s work has great potential to add to the evidence regarding best practices in ambulatory care settings because the literature regarding PPMs in ambulatory care clinics is sparse. MAJ Siaki notes that more than 100 years ago, Florence Nightingale used evidence to change both the professional standing of nurses and the quality of care that nurses delivered. Ms. Nightingale advised nurses, “Unless we are making progress in our nursing every year, every month, every week, take my word for it we are going back.” It was from that perspective that this project was undertaken. ★

Know Your Specialty Leaders

Your specialty leaders are a valuable resource for current research requirements and initiatives throughout the military, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the Federal Nursing Services Council.

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